Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 MC-02

AID-20 IGA-02 ARA-16 DRC-01 /187 W $\,$

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4465

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

ORGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, IN, AF, BG, US

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON US ARMS POLICY, RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

SUMMARY: BHUTTO HAS TOLD UPI THAT USG IS OBLIGATED BY TREATY TO SUPPLY ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT, WITH NEIGHBORS ALL ENGAGED IN MILITARY BUILD-UP, PAKISTAN'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AGGRESSION IS IN DOUBT. HE EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR EARLY RESUMPTION DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA. BHUTTO SAW LITTLE THREAT FROM AGAHANISTAN ITSELF BUT WAS DISTURBED BY POSSIBLE OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR KABUL REGIME. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH BANGLADESH. END SUMMARY.

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- 1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES APRIL 29 HEADLINED REPORT OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN UPI BY PRIMIN BHUTTO PRECEDING WEEK.
- 2. ARTICLE QUOTED BHUTTO AS ASSERTING THAT USG WAS "OBLIGED UNDER TWO BILATERAL TREATIES SIGNED IN 1954 AND 1959 AND NEVER ABROGATED, TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN." HE BELIEVED THERE WERE COMPELLING REASONS FOR US TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLY TO HIS GOVERNMENT. "PAKISTAN'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF, TO OFFER A CREDIBLE DEFENSE, HAS BEEN IN THE PAST A DETERRENT TO AGGRESSION IN THE SUBCONTINENT." THIS DETERRENT WAS REMOVED, BHUTTO TOLD INTERVIEWER, "AND WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED IN 1971" WHEN INDIA DETACHED PAKISTAN'S EASTERN WING.
- 3. BHUTTO NOTED THAT ALL PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS WERE ENGAGED IN ARMS BUILDUP. SOVIET UNION WAS GIVING INDIA MASSIVE ARMS ASSISTANCE, "INDIA HERSELF IS SPENDING ABOUT 2.5 BILLION DOLLARS ON ARMAMENTS", SOVIETS WERE ALSO SUPPORTING AFGHANISTAN AND "GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT TO IRAQ." IRAN WAS ALSO REARMING, PRIMIN OBSERVED. IRANIANS WERE NOT SPENDING MONEY ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT "JUST FOR FUN" HE ADDED. "THEY KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PERSIAN GULF. THEY KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. THEY KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THEIR REGION." PRIMIN DECLARED THAT "IF NATIONS ALL AGROUND YOU ARE ARMING THEMSELVES TO THE TEETH THERE IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL FEELING THAT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING HAPPENING."
- 4. CONTINUING, BHUTTO NOTED THAT INDIA WAS SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND WONDERED WHY GOI WAS AT SAME TIME SPENDING SO MUCH ON ARMS. HE COULD NOT AGREE THAT RESUMPTION OF US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN WOULD SET BACK CURRENTLY IMPROVING INDO/US RELATIONS. INDIANS "MIGHT SULK" BUT THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT RELATIONS WITH US BECAUSE "WHEN IT COMES TO THE CRUNCH, ON EVERY OCCASION, INDIA HAS HAD TO GO TO THE US FOR ASSISTANCE" AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY "NOT AFFECT US RELATIONS WITH INDIA IF THE US FULFILLS HER OBLIGATIONS TO PAKISTAN." PRIMIN NOTED THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT BASE ITS RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH SOVIET UNION ON FACT THAT SOVIETS SUPPLY ARMS TO INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN, IMPLYING THAT INDIA MIGHT DO LIKEWISE WITH REGARD US.

5. TURNING TO RELATIONS WITH INDIA, BHUTTO SAID HE HOPED DIPLOMATIC TIES COULD BE RESTORED "BY THE END OF THIS MONTH OR THE BEGINNING OF NEXT." HE SAW NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT BE RESTORED "THE SOONER THE BETTER."

HE FELT INDIA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SLOW PACE OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS. HE COULD SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTANCE BY PRIMIN GHANDI OF INVITATION TO VISIT PAKISTAN AND HE EXPRESSED THAT SHE WOULD COME "AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME."

6. ON RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN, BHUTTO COMMENTED THAT "AFGHANISTAN ON ITS OWN DOES NOT POSE A PROBLEM FOR US" BUT THERE HAVE BEEN "OMINOUS DEVELOPMENTS--MILITARY MISSIONS COMING, GOING, ALL SORTS OF DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE, AGREEMENTS IN DEPTH, SECRET AGREEMENTS, AGREEMENTS TO GIVE ARMS, AGREEMENTS TO TRAIN PERSONNEL; ALL THESE THINGS DO NOT HAPPEN FOR NOTHING." PAKISTAN WOULD BE IN DEEP TROUBLE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED, IF AFGHANISTAN RECEIVED PHYSICAL SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE FOR AN ATTACK ON PAKISTAN. HE PLEDGED THAT PAKISTAN WOULD "NEVER AGRESS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN." AFGHANS, HE COMPLAINED, HAD ASSERTED THAT THEY HAD DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT GOP HAD ATTEMPTED OVERTHROW DAUD REGIME, EVIDENCE WHICH GOA HAD NEVER REVEALED. "I CAN TELL YOU WITH ALL THE EMPHASIS AT MY COMMAND THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE." HE DECLARED.

7. WITH REGARD BANGLADESH, BHUTTO SAID GOP WAS NOT IN A POSITION PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID BUT WAS PREPARED TO RESUME EXPORTS AT SOME SACRIFICE TO PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN WAS NOW EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE ON RICE EXPORTS IT HAD ONCE SHIPPED TO FORMER EAST WING, BHUTTO DECLARED, AND "IF WE COULD DO THAT FOR 25 YEA E E E E E E E

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